



# FEMA

**Disclaimer:** The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to [www.weather.gov/srh](http://www.weather.gov/srh) and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

## FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Thursday, March 09, 2018  
Issued: 0800 CT

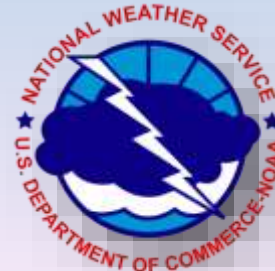
***Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.***

***Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.***

***Slight risk of severe storms in SE LA; damaging winds, hail and tornadoes all possible.***

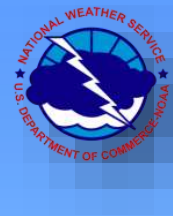
***A few inches of snow expected in the higher elevations of NM.***

National Weather Service  
Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX



Prepared by: Jennifer McNatt  
817-978-1100 x 147

# Key Points



## Today

- Slight risk of severe storms over SE LA today; damaging winds, hail and tornadoes are all possible
- Snow expected in the higher elevations of NM

## Monday - Thursday

- No significant weather expected through Wednesday
- Critical fire weather conditions may return to NM and W TX by Thursday

## River Flood Status

- Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.
- The Ouachita River in S AR / N LA is cresting or forecast to crest in moderate to major flood this week.
- The crest on the MS River is just upriver of Helena, AR. The flood wave will continue to move downstream in the coming weeks.
- The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach moderate flood stage on 3/23.

# FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

## Mar 11, 2018 through Mar 15, 2018

DAY / THREAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
Severe Storms	SE LA				
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather					NM, W TX
Winter	Higher elevations of NM				
River Flooding	E & S AR, N, E & SE LA				
	E TX, LA, AR				

	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

*For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.*



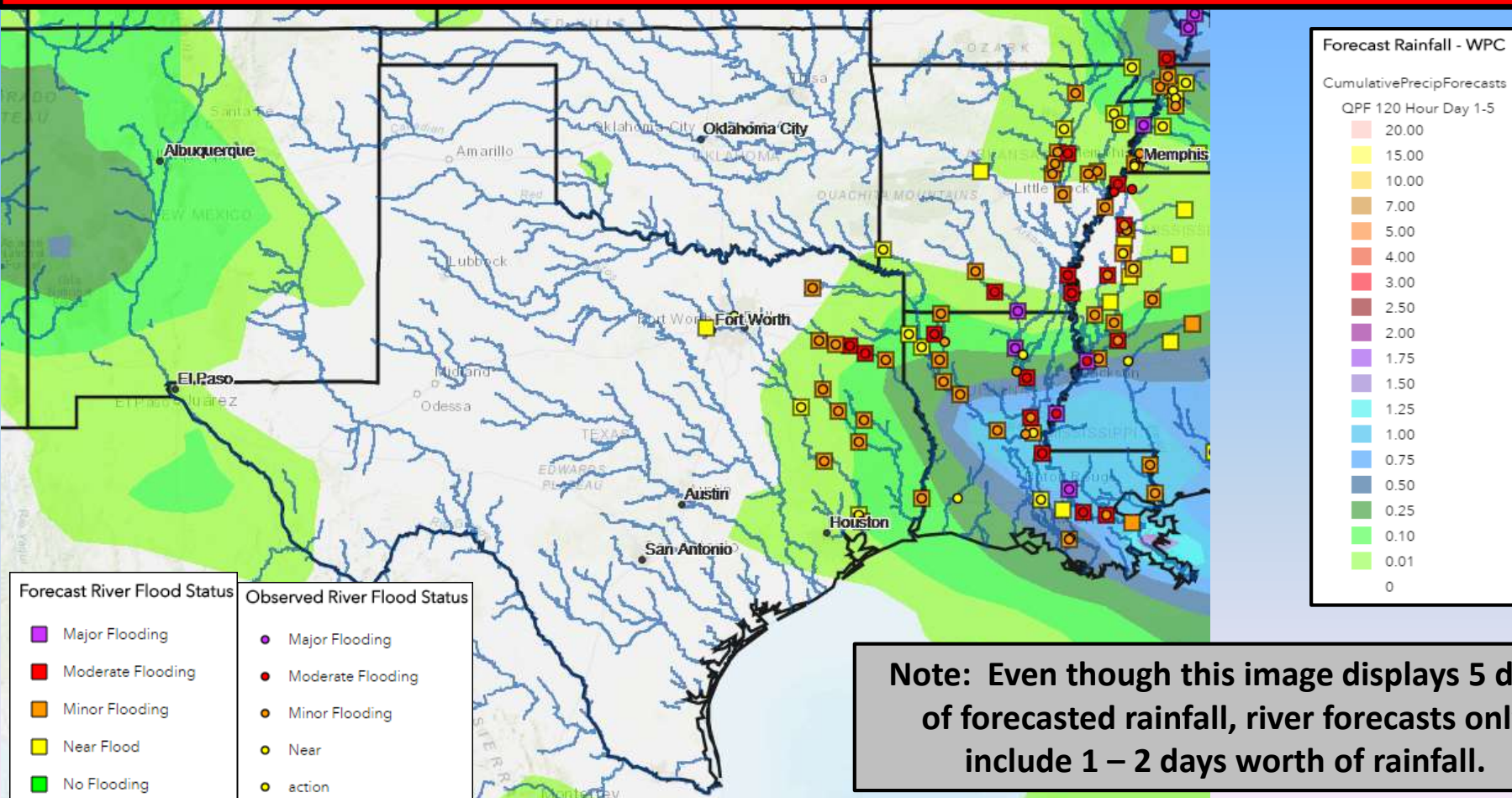
# 5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

The Ouachita River in S AR / N LA is cresting or forecast to crest in moderate to major flood this week.

The crest on the MS River is just upriver of Helena, AR. Flood wave will continue to move downstream in coming weeks.

The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach moderate flood stage on 3/23.



See <http://water.weather.gov/ahps> for the latest on river flooding



# Latest on the Mississippi River

## From Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



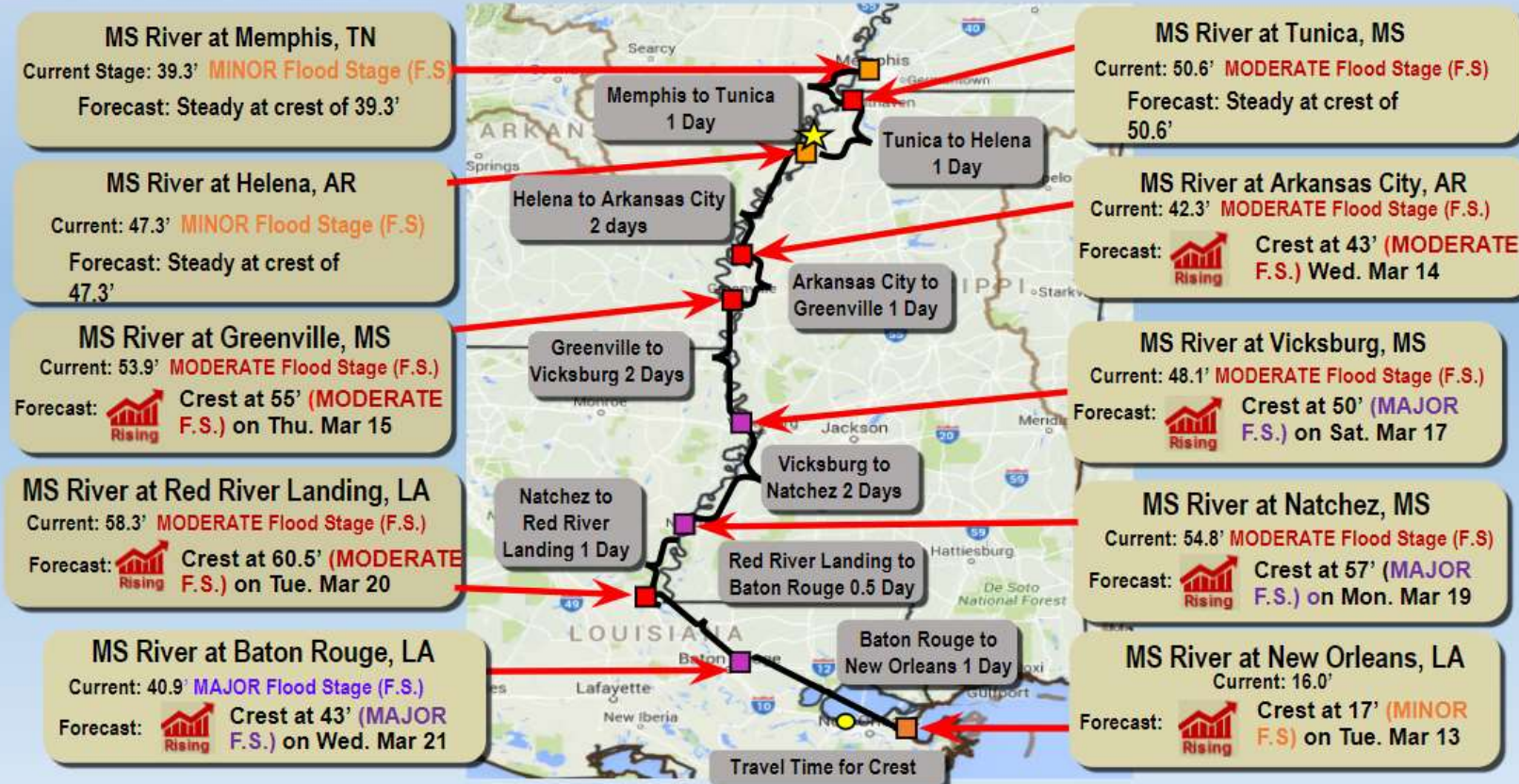
### Mississippi River Crest Watch

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced  
morning of March 10, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



★ Location of Mississippi River Crest Today    ● Forecast Assumes operation at Bonnet Carré

# Latest on the Atchafalaya River

## From Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



### Atchafalaya River Crest Watch

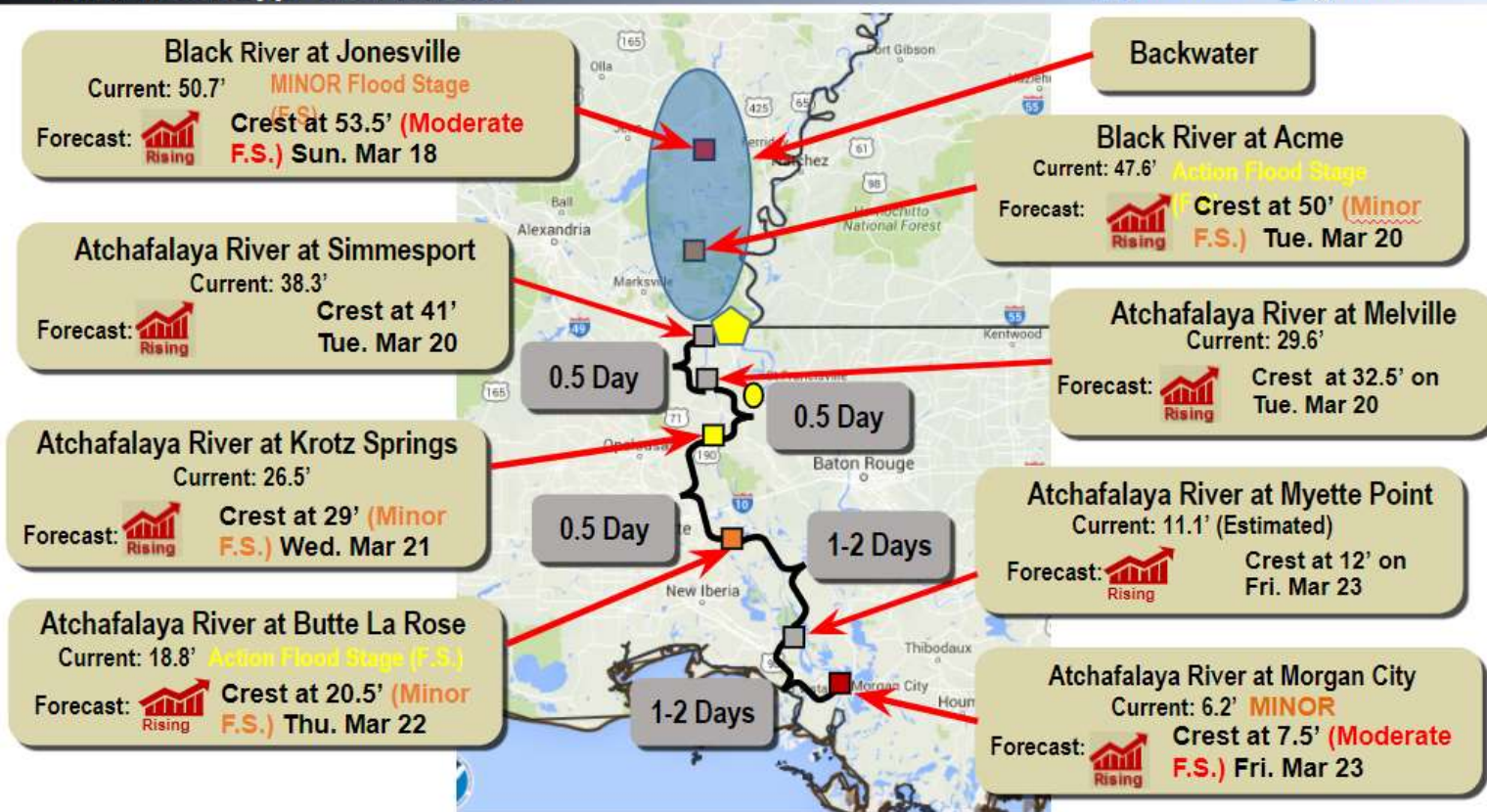
Lower Mississippi River Forecast

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 10, 2018

f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC

Center



Yellow pentagon: Old River Control Structure  
Yellow circle: Forecast assumes no operation at Morganza

Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure



# Latest on the Ouachita River

## From Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



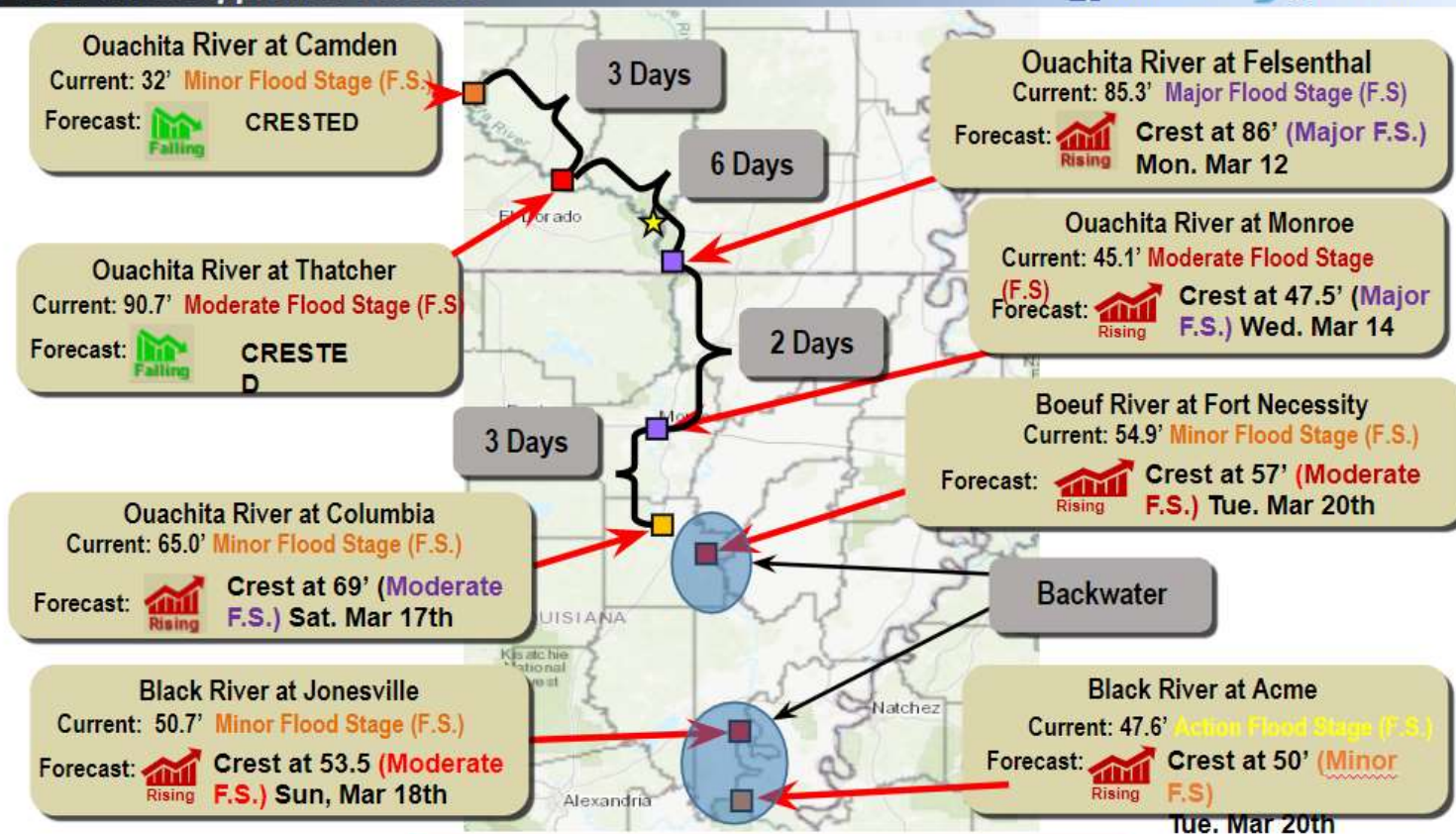
### Ouachita River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts  
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#### Lower Mississippi River Forecast

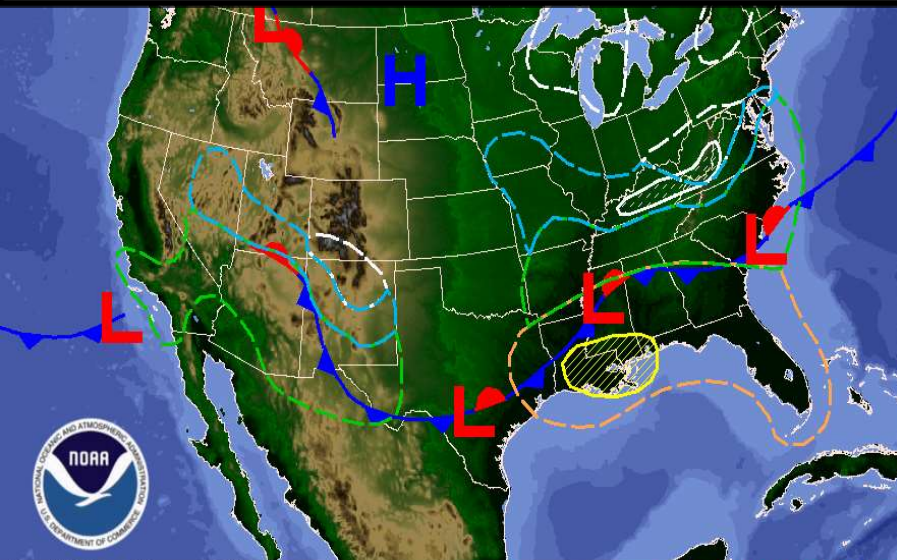
f NWSLMRFC

@NWSLMRFC



★ **Crest Today**

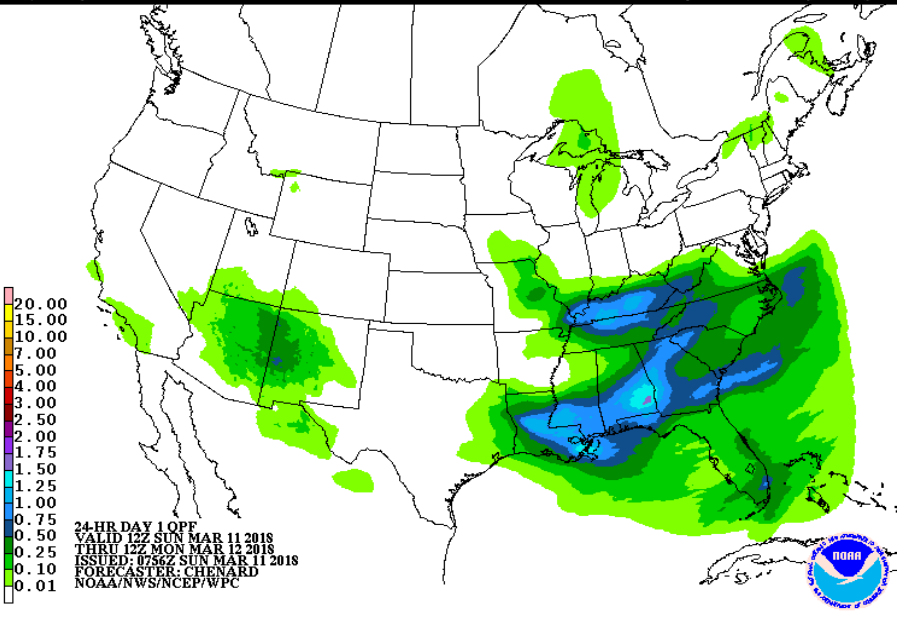
# Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Mar 11, 2018, issued 6:56 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Hamrick with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow  
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

Slight risk of severe storms in SE LA; damaging winds, hail and tornadoes all possible.

A few inches of snow expected in the higher elevations of NM.

Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 8

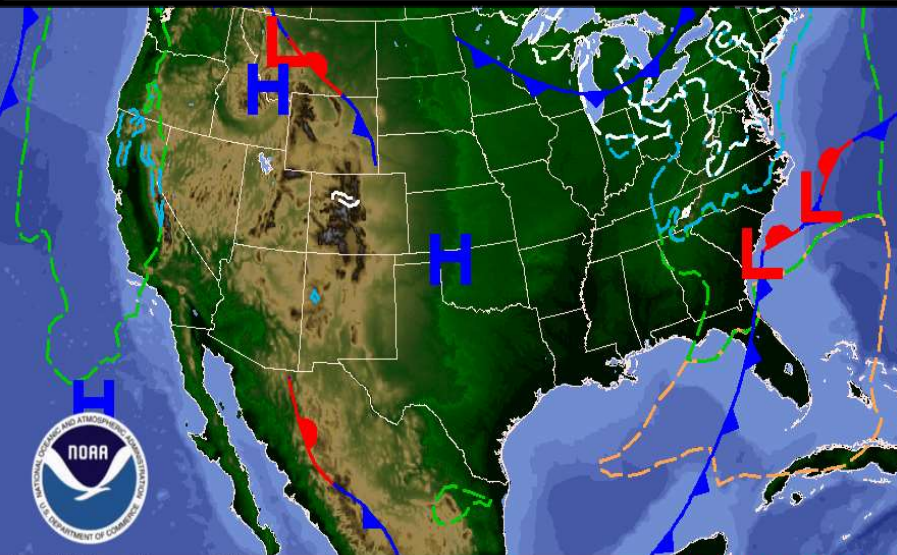
## Severe Weather Outlook Sunday, March 11, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 11 2018 0749 AM CDT  
Valid Until: Mar 12 2018 0700 AM CDT





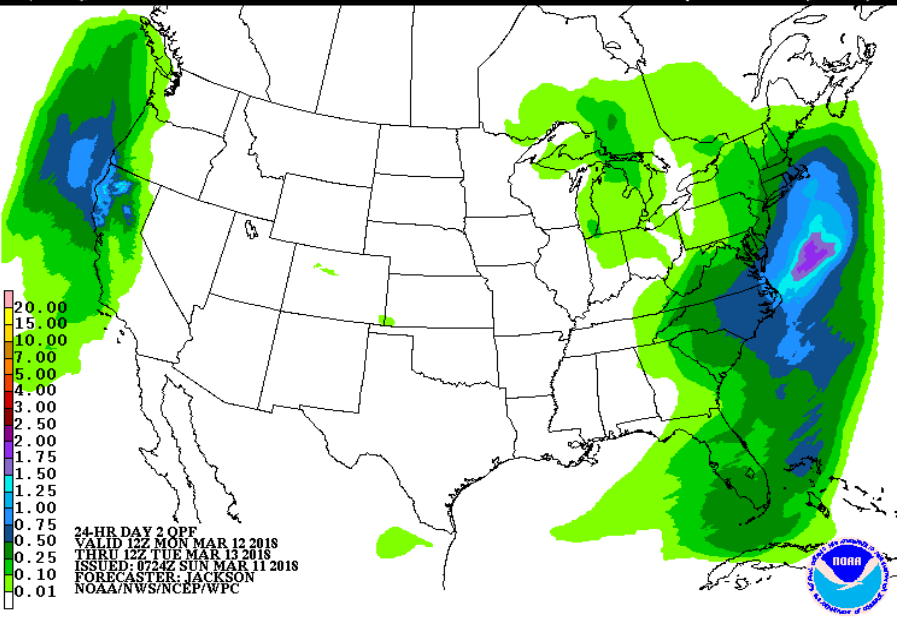
# Tomorrow's Weather



## Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 12, 2018, issued 4:58 AM EDT Sun, Mar 11, 2018  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Rubin-Oster with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

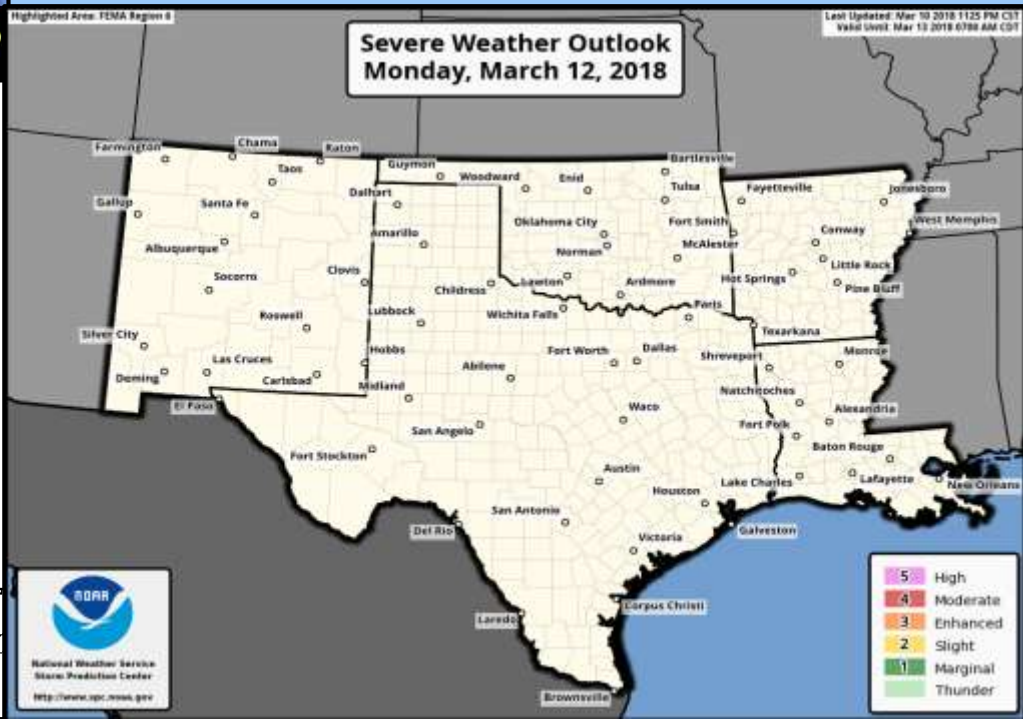
Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow  
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



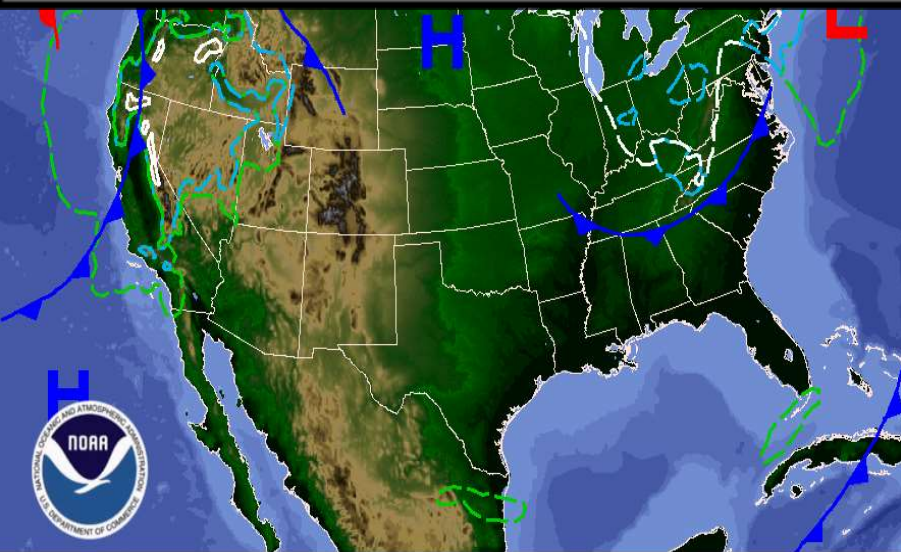
Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

No significant weather expected.



# Tuesday's Weather



**Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.**

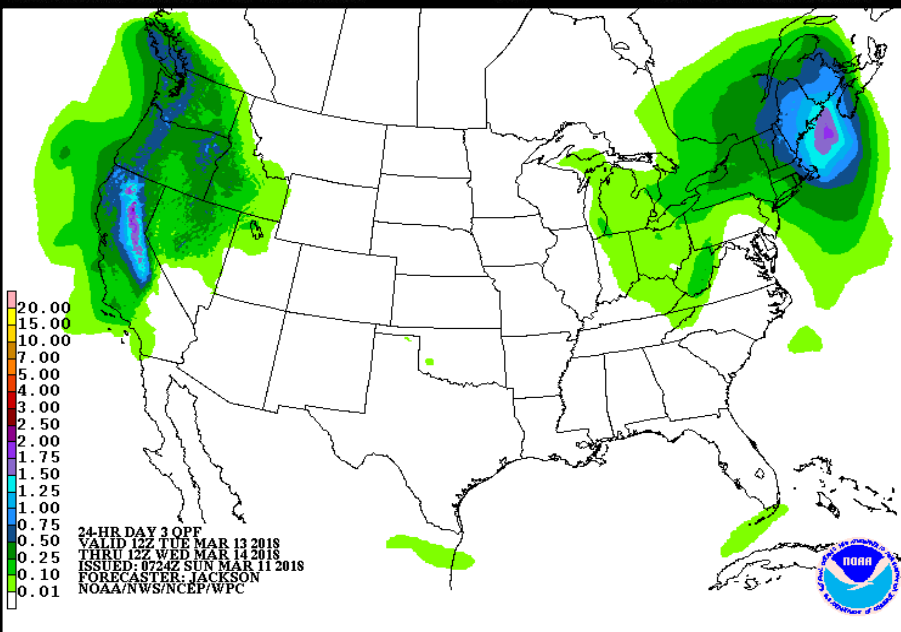
**Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.**

**No significant weather expected.**

## Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Mar 13, 2018, issued 5:02 AM EDT Sun, Mar 11, 2018  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Rubin-Oster with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow  
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

## Severe Weather Outlook Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Last Updated: Mar 10 2018 11:44 PM CST  
Valid Until: Mar 16 2018 07:00 AM CST





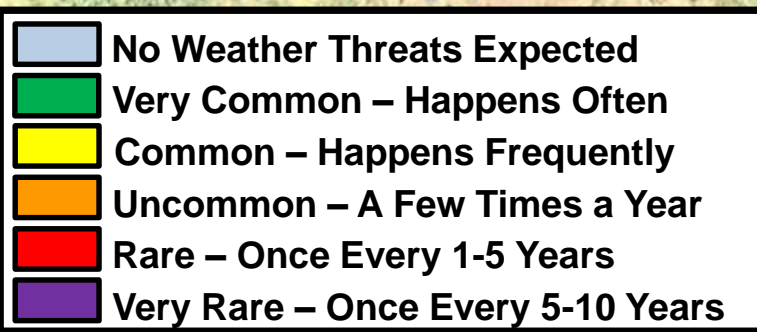
# Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

## Wednesday - Thursday



**Critical fire  
weather  
conditions look  
to return  
Thursday into  
the weekend**

**No significant  
weather expected  
Wednesday**



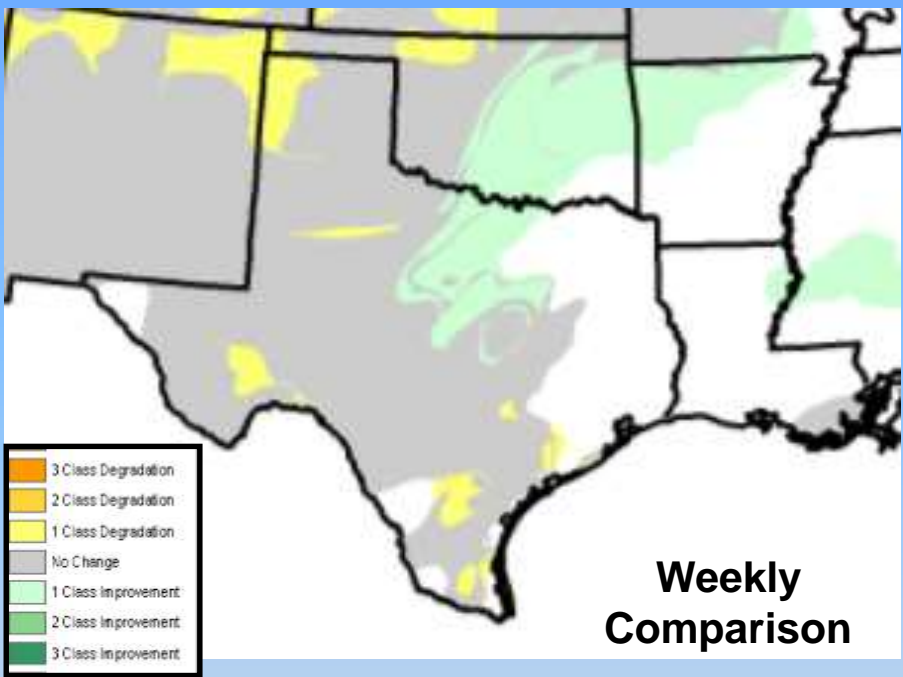
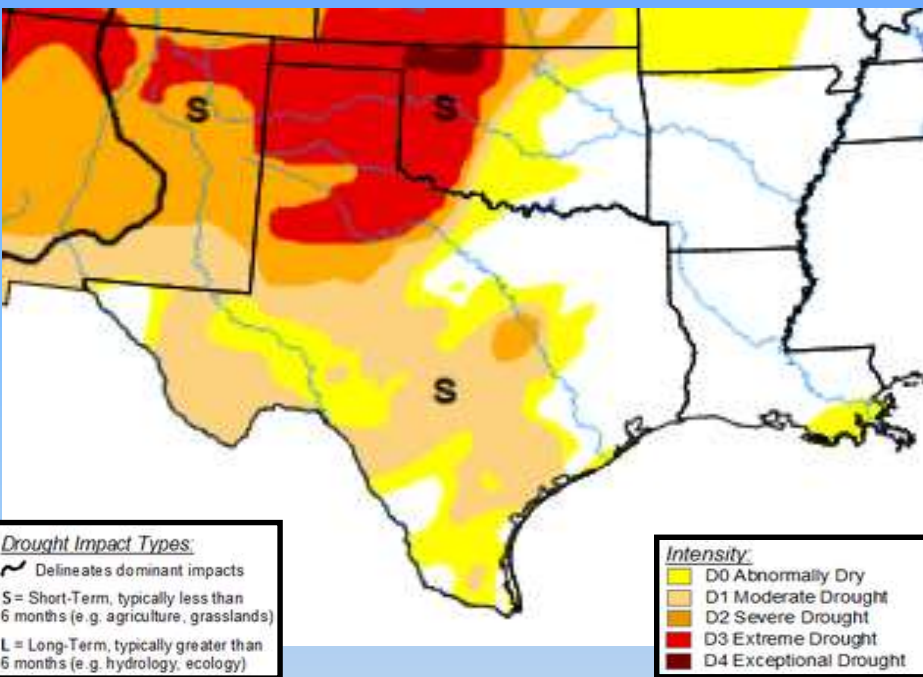
**\*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.**





# Drought Monitor Released March 8, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 6, 2018



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)				
State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	14.66%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.45%	32.91%	0.78%	3.17%
Texas	14.16%	11.47%	0.00%	0.00%
New Mexico	17.08%	5.23%	0.00%	0.00%

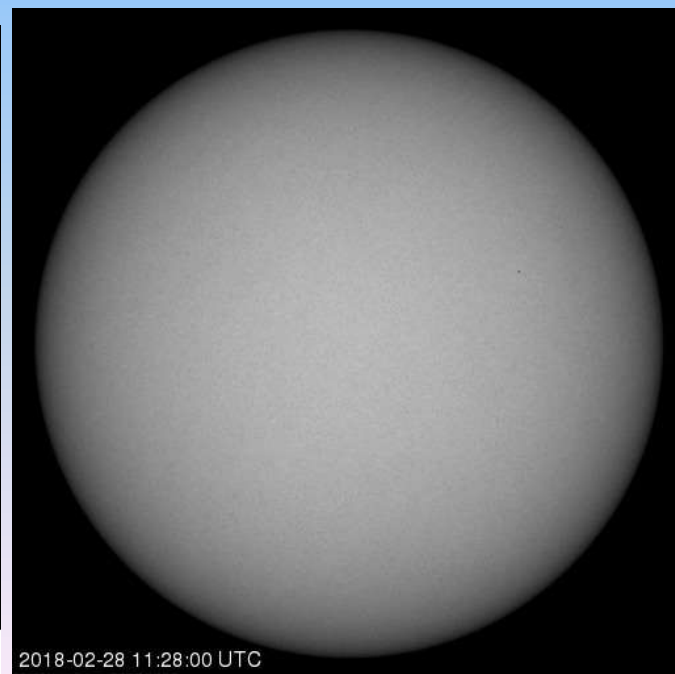
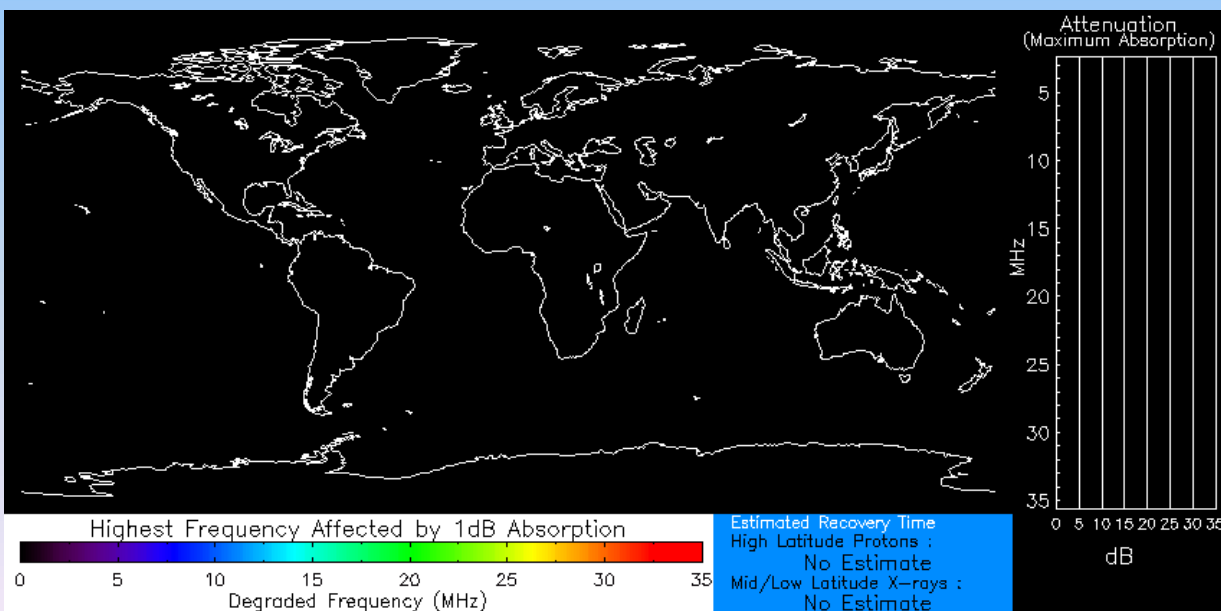
# Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Geomagnetic Storms	Quiet to Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)	Quiet (Max Kp = 2)	Quiet (Max Kp = 2)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



Normal X-ray Background  
Product Valid At : 2018-03-11 13:14 UTC

Normal Proton Background  
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



**National Weather Service**  
**Southern Region Headquarters**  
**Regional Operations Center**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

Phone: (682) 703-3747 **\*New Direct Number**  
E-mail: [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov)  
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

**facebook**

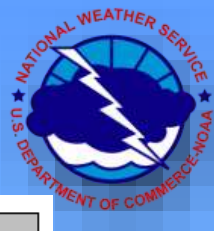
<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

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The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov).



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	<b>Very Common</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees</li> <li>Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX</li> </ul>
Yellow	<b>Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently</b> Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible</li> <li>Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail</li> </ul>
Orange	<b>Uncommon – A Few Times a Year</b> Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely</li> <li>Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail</li> <li>Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected</li> </ul>
Red	<b>Rare – Once every 1-5 Years</b> Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days</li> <li>Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail</li> <li>Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue</li> </ul>
Purple	<b>Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years</b> Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow</li> <li>Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms</li> </ul>